Improving the Quality of the HRPP by Integrating Compliance, Quality Improvement, and Education

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Improving the Quality of the HRPP by Integrating Compliance, Quality Improvement, and Education

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Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), the largest academic community hospital system in Pennsylvania, has centralized its clinical research enterprise into one office named the Network Office of Research and Innovation (NORI). Centralization has resulted in integration and coordination of research operations throughout human subject protections, research clinical operations, research business administration, and research support services. This integration has, in turn, provided opportunities to enhance operational efficiencies while diminishing institutional research compliance exposure.

With centralization, NORI has integrated post-approval monitoring, quality improvement, and education throughout the entire research enterprise with a strong emphasis on human subject protections. This continuum of quality assurance, quality improvement, and education has been well received by the research community, who have embraced these activities as collegial and constructive in an environment of accountability and transparency.

Integrating human subject protections with the clinical research enterprise:

- Organizational structure
- Harmonized research approval process
- Institution wide feasibility review
- Centralization of research support services
- Clinical trial agreements
- Research compliance oversight
- Quality improvement
- Education

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